

Hunting and Trapping

This area offers excellent waterfowl hunting and good deer and turkey hunting. Rabbit, dove and quail hunting are found on limited portions of the area.

Hunting and frogging are allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions:

- Non-toxic shot is required for all hunting with a shotgun on this area. Possession of lead shot is prohibited.
- Furbearer trapping is permitted by special use permit only.

Waterfowl Hunting is permitted on the area under the following regulations:

- From Oct. 15 to Jan. 31 only waterfowl hunting is permitted in portions identified as "Waterfowl Hunting Only". During Middle Zone Duck Season these units are only open to those hunters who receive a Waterfowl Hunting Tag allocated during the daily drawing which is held approximately two (2) hours prior to local shooting time.
- During the Middle Zone Duck Season waterfowl may only be taken from a blind or designated area except that hunters may retrieve dead birds and pursue and shoot downed cripples.
- Waterfowl hunters hunting prior to and following the Middle Zone Duck Season must self-register at the area headquarters prior to hunting. These hunters must fill out and deposit the top portion of the Waterfowl Hunting Tag, possess the bottom portion while hunting, record harvest at the end of the hunt and deposit the bottom portion in the drop box at area headquarters.
- Waterfowl hunters must check out immediately after the close of their hunting trip.
- During early teal season, early Canada goose season, and the snow goose conservation order the remainder of the area not designated as Wildlife Refuge is open to hunting by self-registration.

- Non-hunters are prohibited from the Waterfowl Hunting Only areas from Oct. 15 to Jan. 31 unless they are members of and remain with a party authorized to use the area.
- In designated portions of the Waterfowl Hunting Only area shooting is prohibited after 1:00 p.m.
- The area is closed to waterfowl hunting on Dec. 25.
- There is no admittance from Oct. 15 to Jan. 31 in the portions identified as "Waterfowl Refuge".
- Portions identified as "Wildlife Refuge" are closed to all uses Oct. 15 to Jan. 31 and closed to hunting Feb. 1 to Oct. 14.
- Decoys and Portable blinds are permitted but must be removed from the area daily. Blinds may be constructed on-site, but only from willows and non-woody vegetation.

Deer hunting is permitted on the area under the following regulations:

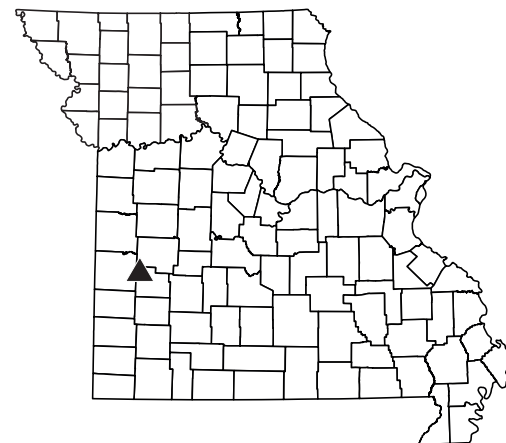
- Deer hunting is permitted under statewide seasons and limits except: only archery methods may be used. The use of antlerless permits is allowed.
- Only bucks that have at least four antler points on one side of their rack may be taken during the archery and firearms deer hunting seasons (except the youth portions).
- Only portable tree stands are allowed and only from Sept. 1 through Jan. 31. Unattended stands must be plainly labeled on a durable material with the full name and address, or Conservation Number, of the owner and be removed from the area before Feb. 1. Use of nails, screw-in steps, and any material or method that would damage the tree is prohibited.

7/2016

(Regulations are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are in Chapter 11 of the Wildlife Code. A free printed copy of the Wildlife Code, which lists most area regulations, is available from the Conservation Department. Chapter 11 in its entirety is available at www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp.) Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, (573) 751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

Schell-Osage

CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Schell-Osage Conservation Area

The Schell-Osage Conservation Area and the Osage River, which forms much of the area's north boundary, derive their names from the Osage Indians which once inhabited the area. Opened to the public in 1964, this highly diverse area is comprised of large parcels of open marsh, and both bottomland and upland forest. Over 40 acres of remnant native prairie which have been augmented with another 340 acres of restored native grasslands. Over 1,400 acres of seasonally flooded wetlands provide habitat for a wide variety of waterfowl, shore birds, wading birds and other wetland dependant wildlife and makes this area a popular destination for both hunters and birders. There are numerous features and facilities throughout the area including two primitive campgrounds, a grass hiking trail, two disabled user waterfowl blinds, two large fishing lakes, and several small ponds.

This conservation area was acquired in part through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Schell-Osage Conservation Area is in Vernon and St. Clair counties. From El Dorado Springs, take Highway 54 west 6 miles, then Route AA north 12 miles, then Route RA east 1.50 miles (last 0.50 mile is gravel), then 2950 Road south 0.25 mile to the area headquarters.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching – Fishing – Hunting – Outdoor Photography – Wildlife Viewing

Conservation Areas are closed from 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. except for authorized camping, fishing, and hunting activities.

- No littering, fireworks or open fires.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.

- Dogs must be leashed when not being used for hunting or training purposes.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, edible wild greens and mushrooms may be taken only for personal use. Cutting or removing other vegetation is prohibited, except temporary blinds may be constructed on-site from willows (Salicaceae) and non-woody vegetation.
- Vehicle use is restricted to graveled roadways and parking areas open to the public.
- Horseback and bicycle riding are permitted only on graveled roads and parking areas open to vehicles.
- Primitive camping is permitted only in spots designated on the area map. Campers are limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period and no more than 30 days in a calendar year. Groups of 10 or more campers need a Special Use Permit.
- Swimming, scuba diving, water skiing, sail boarding, caving and rappelling is prohibited.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing is permitted under statewide regulation. The following special regulations also apply to lakes and ponds on Schell-Osage CA:

- Fish may be taken with up to 3 poles and line, bank lines, jug lines, limb lines, throw lines, and trot lines on lakes and ponds at Schell-Osage CA.
- Carp, buffalo, suckers, and gar may also be taken by atlatl, gig, bow, or crossbow during statewide seasons.
- Daily limits are six (6) black bass, except in Atkinson and Schell lakes where the limit is two (2); four (4) catfish (channel, blue and flathead) in the aggregate; white, yellow and striped bass and their hybrids, fifteen (15), and fifteen (15) crappie. All other fish are under statewide limits, but may not exceed twenty (20) in the aggregate.
- All black bass less than fifteen (15) inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed

immediately after being caught in Atkinson and Schell lakes. On all other impoundments, all black bass between twelve (12) and fifteen (15) inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.

- No more than four (4) of any combination of white, yellow, striped, or hybrid bass may exceed 18".
- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited on lakes and ponds.
- Gizzard shad may be taken from lakes and ponds with dip net or throw net on Schell-Osage CA.
- Boats, including sailboats, may be used on lakes and ponds designated as open to boats. Boats may not be left unattended overnight.
- Outboard motors in excess of 10 horsepower must be operated at slow, no-wake speed.
- Only electric motors are permitted on lakes and ponds of less than 70 acres.
- Use of houseboats and personal water craft is prohibited.

Harry S. Truman Lake (Osage River Arm)

Regulation:

See the Wildlife Code for fishing regulations on Truman Reservoir.

Nearby Department Areas:

Taberville Prairie Conservation Area

Taberville Access

Four Rivers Conservation Area

Harmony Mission Lake Conservation Area

Linscomb Wildlife Area

For Local Information, Contact:

Schell-Osage Conservation Area

4662 South 2950 Road

Schell City, MO 64783

417/432-3414 or 417/876-5226